

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 EUR-06 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 NSC-07 AGR-03 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIEP-01

TAR-01 H-01 L-02 OMB-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054121

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, EC

SUBJECT: US-EC 24:6 NEGOTIATIONS - ITALIAN POSITION ON
ORANGES AND CITRUS

1. AMBASSADOR EBERLE CALLED IN AMBASSADOR ORTONA MARCH 18
TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE GOI FOLLOW-THROUGH ON COMMITMENTS
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FORMER MINISTER FERRARI-AGGRADI HAD GIVEN TO AMBASSADORS

VOLPE AND MALMGREN ON ITALIAN POSITION ON ORANGES AND TOBACCO.

2. AFTER DESCRIBING PRESENT NEGOTIATING SCENARIO WHICH WE AND COMMISSION HOPED WOULD LEAD TO EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' APPROVAL ON APRIL 1-2 OF SATISFACTORY 24:6 SETTLEMENT PACKAGE, EBERLE UNDERLINED THAT MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS ON TOBACCO AND ORANGES ARE SINE QUA NON FOR SETTLEMENT. RECALLED THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MALMGREN AND EMBOFFS, ALL INTERESTED GOI MINISTRIES, INCLUDING TRADE MINISTER MATTEOTI HIMSELF, HAD TOLD US THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER AGRICULTURE MINISTRY DECIDED ON CITRUS AND TOBACCO. ACCORDINGLY, WE CONSIDERED FERRARI-AGGRADI COMMITMENT TO AMBASSADORS THAT GOI WOULD AGREE TO FULL US ORANGE REQUEST AND WOULD BE FLEXIBLE ON TOBACCO AS GOI COMMITMENT. FERRARI-AGGRADI HAD STATED HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TELL ITALIAN EC REP IN BRUSSELS TO INFORM COMMISSION THAT GOI SHOWED FLEXIBILITY ON ORANGES AND TOBACCO. AFTER CONTRACT WITH SUNKIST WAS APPROVED, GOI WOULD NOTIFY EC

THAT THEY AGREED TO WHOLE PACKAGE.

3. DURING CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS ON MARCH 14-15, HIJZEN TOLD AMBASSADOR MALMGREN THAT AG PERMSEC DICHIO, WHO APPARENTLY RUNNING AG MIN DURING PRESENT TRANSITION PERIOD, DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF FERRARI-AGGRADI'S COMMITMENT. HE SPECIFICALLY TOLD PIZZUTTO OF RABOT'S STAFF THAT GOI COULD NOT ACCEPT MORE THAN TWO OR THREE WEEKS ON ORANGES AND COULD NOT GO BELOW SIXTY U.A. ON TOBACCO.

4. AMBASSADOR EBERLE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD CALLED IN AMBASSADOR ORTONA BECAUSE NEW AGRICULTURE MINISTER NOT YET FORMALLY INSTALLED SO THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR AMBASSADOR VOLPE TO RAISE MATTER WITH HIM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE BEING FORTHCOMING ON INDUSTRIAL SIDE. ITALIAN RENEGING ON COMMITMENT THEREFORE THREATENS TO BLOCK SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT. FULL ONUS FOR FAILURE WOULD FALL ON ITALIANS, SOMETHING WE ASSUME NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WISH.

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5. AMBASSADOR ORTONA SAID HE WOULD SEND CABLE IMMEDIATELY FOR ATTENTION OF PRIME MINISTER. (HE ALSO NOTED NEW AG MINISTER IS VERY CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER). HE PROMISED TO BE BACK IN CONTACT AFTER REPLY FROM ROME. IN ADDITION, MINISTER ROSSI, WHO ACCOMPANIED ORTONA, INDICATED HE WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH DESARTA WHO WAS WITH FERRARI-AGGRADI AT MALMGREN MEETING, AND WITH FRACASSI. KISSINGER

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